

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 3509 - SB 3720**

February 22, 2012

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Establishes a procedural method to resolve disputes in a manner by which the parties, represented by counsel, enter into an agreement to work together to reach a resolution. Authorizes a court to approve an agreement resulting from such a collaborative law process. Authorizes a party to terminate a collaborative law process with or without cause. Applies to collaborative law participation agreements signed on or after July 1, 2013.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

**Assumptions:**

- The proposed bill provides a method to resolve disputes out of court. Most settlements reached in these cases will have to be filed with and approved by a court. Additionally, courts may be called upon to settle discovery disputes or other types of disputes within the collaborative law process. Any decrease in the caseloads for the court system is estimated to be not significant.
- A small decrease in cases in the court system, which will result in reduced state and local government expenditures for processing the cases and reduced state and local government revenue from fees, taxes and costs collected. These reductions in expenditures and revenue are estimated to be not significant.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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